

Newsletter of the

BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 2000



Buncom Joins With Ruch For Its Centennial

Instead of having Buncom Day this year, we're joining Ruch for a joint celebration of their centennial. So plan on it -- our usual day, the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, May 27 -- in Downtown Ruch, six miles from Buncom on Highway 238.

Buncom will be well represented! We'll have the Chicken Splat Contest, Liz Henderson's wagon rides, and our own booth selling bake sale goods and whatever else you'd like to donate (but not yard sale type things). There might also be some entertainers you recognize from Buncom Day!

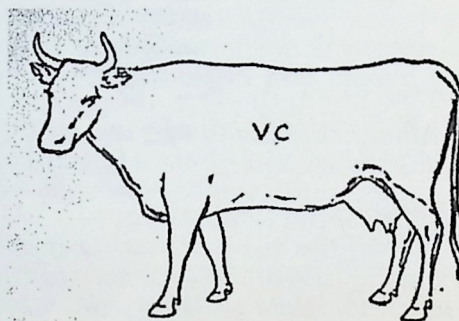
You can help: We need cookies and other bake sale items, plus whatever non-food items you'd like to donate for sale. Call Vernice Hall at 899-8794 to let her know what you'll bring, then bring them on the morning of the 27th!

The Ruch celebration will be from 9 a.m. until everyone goes home. They'll be serving breakfast and lunch. In addition, there will be craft booths and other food booths, informational displays, and the usual chance to chat with neighbors and friends.

Activities are planned for the kids, too, including a face painting booth.

It's all in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the town of Ruch, a late-comer compared to Buncom, which was founded by and named for Casper (Cap) Ruch. He started with a blacksmith shop, and added a home, store, smoke house, post office and large hall.

Old Buncom Brands



Andrew Cantrall, Buncom, Oregon.

Range: Little Applegate.
Mark: Underbit and split in right ear and upperbit and split in left ear.
Brand: V C on left ribs on cattle; on left shoulder on horses.

Brands have been around Buncom for a long time. See Page 2

Come Join our Work Party on May 20

We don't know if you'll see this in time, but come join us at Buncom on Saturday, May 20, at 10 a.m. for the annual Work Party.

Bring weed-eaters, rakes, brooms. Even though there's no Buncom Day at Buncom this year, we want to make sure the buildings are kept up and protected from the usual summer fire danger.

We'll have the usual sign up at Buncom, in case this newsletter doesn't hit your mailbox in time!

Ethel West

Ethel West, a pioneer in the Little Applegate, died early this month at the age of 89. She is survived by her husband, Fred, and many family members.

Connie Fowler wrote a tribute to her:

She was a true lady and a very special one. I feel privileged to have known her. She helped me so much when I wrote the book about the Buncom area. Her love of the Applegate was evident by her unending recollections of people and events of the early days.

Always willing to answer my many questions, she tirelessly remembered dates and names as well as happenings of the days.

I loved the story about her grandfather having one of the first cars in the area, an Oldsmobile with carbide lights and the gas tank on the back.

"If you went up a hill, the gas would run back, and they had a rubber bulb on the side that they would have to pump air into the tank to keep the gas level," Ethel remembered.

"Anyway, I remember one trip up the Jacksonville Hill, not the one we know now, this is the one that came up through Jacksonville up Cady Road and on up that way," she explained. "I can remember riding up there and my grandmother would reach over and she was afraid that my grandfather wasn't going to pump it and we'd get stalled. She'd say, 'Pump it, Pa, we ain't a-gonna make it.'"

Ethel spoke fondly of both the hardships and the good times. Simple things usually made quite an impression.

I never heard her complain, although she worked right alongside Fred doing what needed to be done.

"I happened to be the hired man wherever we went," she told me with a smile.

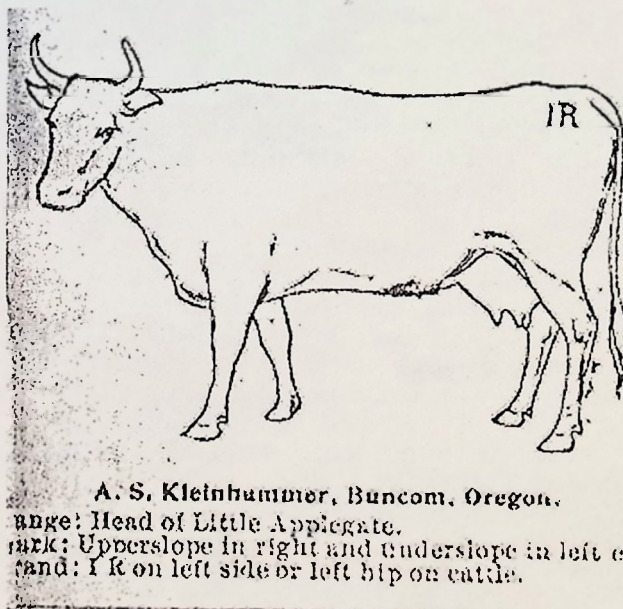
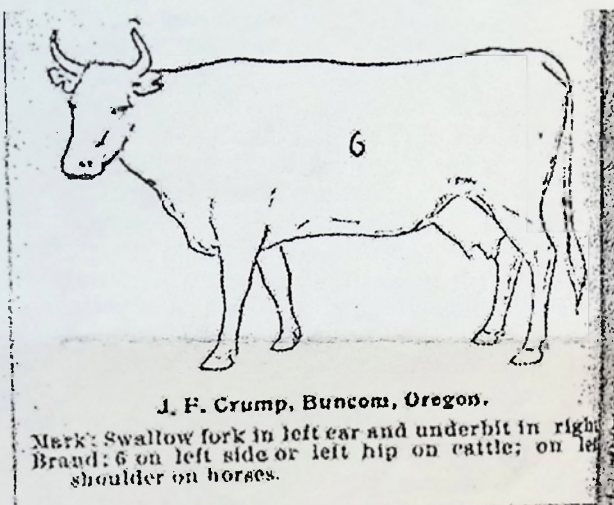
The Applegate Valley won't be quite the same without her, but because of her life, it is richer than any gold pocket ever found there.

Photos from the 1914 Brand Book

Society member Gerald Doran was kind enough to send us copies of drawings out of the 1914 edition of the Jackson County Stockmen's Association Brand Book. They show the brands then belonging to some of Buncom's prominent ranchers.

Jerry also sent the page where his grandfather's brand appeared.

On Page 1 is one of the Buncom brands. Here are two more:



NEW OR RENEWING MEMBERS SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

John & Marguerite Black, Jacksonville, OR
Don & Dee Coffman, Medford, OR
R.D. Fletcher, Ashland, OR
Brian & Sheri German, Medford, OR
Phil & Deanna Gossner, Medford, OR
Doug Hennion, Eugene, OR
Southern Oregon Hist. Society, Medford, OR
Petra & Bob Irwin, Jacksonville, OR
Wayne & Velma Knapp, Central Point, OR
LeRoy C. Knott, Jacksonville, OR
Dick & Rose Marie Leever, Medford, OR
Ron & Donna Marchetti, Ashland, OR
The McCandless Family, Medford, OR
Tom & Chris Russell, Jacksonville, OR
Otto & Ginny Spechtenhauser, Jacksonville, OR
Fred & Martha Straube, Jacksonville, OR
Marion & Gary Strong, Klamath Falls, OR
Leota Cantrall, Medford, OR
Barbara & Bro Mumblo, Jacksonville, OR
Bob & Ann Fletcher, Atherton, CA
Steve & Priscilla Weaver, Kenilworth, IL
Edward Cantrall, Alexandria, VA

A SPECIAL THANKS ...

Along with their dues, several of our members send additional donations. We would like to offer our additional thanks for their generous support:

Barbara & Bro Mumblo
Iris Wells
Lind & Effa McBeth
Clarence & Evelyn Williams
Dick & Rose Marie Leever
Haydn & Cora Lee
Warren & Audrey Merz
Don & Elaine Turcke
Dennis & Judy Barr
Phyllis Runals
Bones & Barbara Wright
Walter & Rosie Emori
Keith & Ione Waite
Don & Patsy Hall
Regina D. Mainwaring

Buncom Rates High in Lake Forest

Fourth-grader Sean in Lake Forest, IL, found Buncom on the Internet when he was researching a school paper on Mt. Hood. So he decided to do the report on Buncom instead!

Society President Reeve Hennion e-mailed him photos of Buncom, and sent him a packet of information.

THANKS, CHRIS ...

Our thanks to Chris Sorenson for burying the water tank at Buncom for the Fire Department's use. He brought his excavator and dug the hole. J.B. Roberts and Phill Holt will be finishing up the burial job. The tank is there for additional water supply in case of fire in the neighborhood.

In appreciation for Chris's effort, the Society made a donation to the Applegate Valley Rural Fire Protection District.

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The Buncom Historical Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the buildings and history of the ghost town of Buncom, Oregon. Society address: 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530

On the Internet:
www.mind.net/buncom/

To join the Society: Send \$5.00 with your name and address to the Society at 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

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